



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

BLUE SKIES GER VILLAGE MONGOLIA

“

Every child has a right to sleep on their pillow at night time, with peace in their hearts, love, security and protection.”

- Christina Noble OBE -



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ABBREVIATIONS

CNCF	Christina Noble Children's Foundation
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
UNICEF	The United Nations Children's Fund





OUR VISION, MISSION, VALUES

Vision: A united world where children are free from suffering, poverty, exploitation, fear, and oppression. Where children are aware of their fundamental human rights.

Mission: The Christina Noble Children's Foundation is dedicated to serving the physical, medical, educational, and emotional needs of vulnerable children. We believe that every child deserves love, respect, and freedom from all forms of exploitation. We establish long-term relationships with the children we support and empower them to live happy, emotionally rich, and independent lives.

Values: Our values represent our beliefs and guide how we behave. They are love, compassion, respect, honesty, and integrity.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

ESTABLISHED

1997

LOCATION

Songino Khaikhan, Ulaanbaatar

OBJECTIVES

To provide a safe environment and a caring community for vulnerable children, where they are cared for and nurtured, surrounded by friends and supportive adults and enabled to successfully break the cycle of poverty and lead independent and fulfilling lives

BENEFICIARIES

Children up to the age of nineteen years who come from disadvantaged backgrounds including orphans, children from poor families whose parents or guardians are unable to support them, abandoned children, children living on the streets, and those who have faced or are at high risk of commercial and sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and threats of violence

LOCAL PARTNERS

National Authority for Family, Child and Youth Development Agency, Ulaanbaatar City Authority for Family, Child and Youth Development Department, Songinokhaikhan District Authority, the 40th Micro-district Authority of Songino Khaikhan District, Children's Police Precinct of Songinokhaikhan District, General Hospital of Songinokhaikhan District, Social Welfare Department of Songinokhaikhan District, the 67th and 124th Public School Administrations, Verodiko Mongolia LLC, Wagner Asia

CNCF ACCOUNTABILITY

CNCF is fully responsible for the protection and development of all residential children, funding, programme management, monitoring and evaluation

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Educational activities, along with regular health check-ups and therapy sessions are organised for all children at the Ger Village. Meetings with the Director of Operations and Ger Village management team, staff and children are held for programme discussions. Monthly reports prepared by CNCF staff are provided to the CNCF Board of Management, CEO, International Board of Directors and Founder Mrs. Christina Noble. Annual reports are sent to all stakeholders. Government inspections are conducted by the Family, Child and Youth Development Agency and the National Inspection Agency of Mongolia. Health and fire safety inspections are conducted annually by the local district authorities

ACTUAL COST 2020

USD \$220,929

REPORTING PERIOD

January – December 2020

2021 OBJECTIVES

- To continue providing the love and support enabling disadvantaged children to lead happy, healthy and emotionally rich lives, while at the village and once they have left
- To improve our services and strengthen our ability to create lasting change in the lives of those we support by assisting the children's families and working closely with the Child Sponsorship Programme for reintegration

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2020, the Blue Skies Ger Village continued to provide a safe and caring environment to children who are orphaned, living on the streets or otherwise unable to stay at home due to high risk of neglect, abuse or exploitation. CNCF's comprehensive and holistic care approach supports our children with not only an education, healthcare and psychological support, but also access to a well-rounded personal development programme of extracurricular activities and life skills training.

The year also witnessed the resilience of each of our children and team members, highlighted through the collaboration and achievements we have accomplished during the unprecedented lockdown period in Ulaanbaatar. Online classes were broadcasted on television whilst daily lessons were also held at the Ger Village for our residential children. Outdoor exercise activities were facilitated in specific areas of the village, as our psychosocial team provided emotional support assisting the children,

their families and CNCF staff to stay centred and maintain good mental health and well-being. All equipment, fixtures, fittings and soft furnishings, as well as the children's playground were sanitised daily. Ger Village staff remained onsite for a number of weeks without returning to their homes, to ensure the safety of the children and mitigating the risk of COVID-19 spread. Ensuring the safety of our community and being able to witness the incredible academic and social accomplishments that our children have and continue to achieve despite this adversity, is a tremendous source of motivation for our teams to keep moving forward.

In 2021, we will continue to provide life-saving childcare support enabling some of Mongolia's most disadvantaged children to lead happy, healthy, and emotionally rich lives. We plan to place an even greater focus on increasing training for the children's families to assist in reintegrating children back with their families where possible.

This year,

55 CHILDREN
were supported at
the Blue Skies Ger Village



31
GIRLS



24
BOYS

53 CHILDREN
were permanent
residents

02 CHILDREN
were temporary
residents

07 CHILDREN
graduated from
the Ger Village

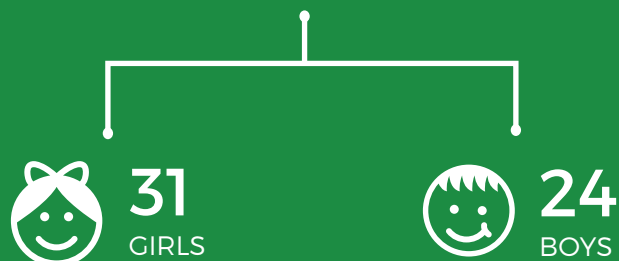
At the end of 2020,
48 CHILDREN
resided at
the Blue Skies Ger Village

Since inception in 1997,
903 CHILDREN
have been provided
with holistic integrated childcare
at CNCF's Blue Skies Ger Village
in Mongolia

OUR YEAR

CNCF works to support vulnerable children who come from abject poverty and disadvantaged backgrounds, whose families are unable to care for them, to reach their full potential and become productive members of society through the comprehensive child-centred support provided at the Blue Skies Ger Village.

55 CHILDREN
received holistic support
at the Blue Skies Ger Village



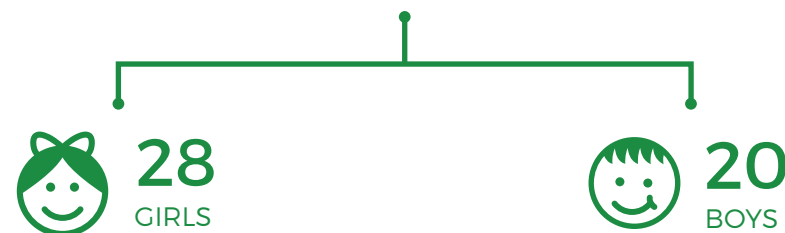
53 PERMANENT
RESIDENTS

04 CHILDREN
arrived at the
Ger Village in 2020

02 TEMPORARY
RESIDENTS
were successfully
reintegrated back
with their families

05 CHILDREN
18 years old
graduated from the Ger
Village and transferred to
CNCF transition homes

48 CHILDREN
resided at the Blue Skies
Ger Village by the end of 2020



Demographic Summary

03 CHILDREN (5%)
are orphans

26 CHILDREN (47%)
were living with single
parents unable to care for them

23 CHILDREN (42%)
have one parent deceased
with the other parent abandoned
or unable to care for them

03 CHILDREN (5%)
were living with both
parents unable to care for them



Age 0 - 5



Age 6 - 10



Age 11 - 15



Age 16 - 18

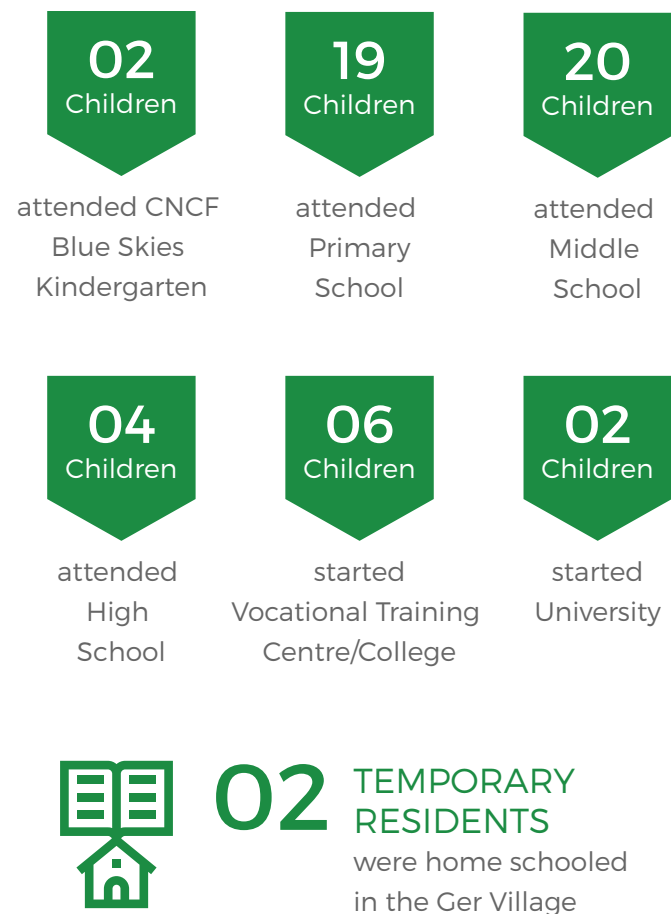


Age 19 - 24

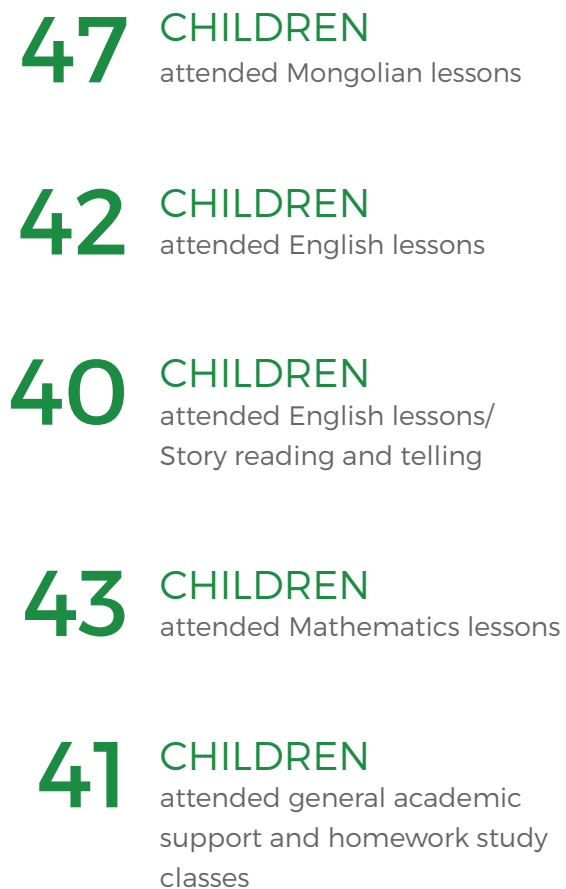
OUR YEAR

Academic Education

Education Level



Extra Tuition





REPORT 2020

OUR YEAR

Academic Education

Educational Outcomes



13 CHILDREN
graduated



04 CHILDREN
graduated from
Kindergarten



04 CHILDREN
graduated from
Primary School



03 CHILDREN
graduated from
Secondary School



02 CHILDREN
graduated from
College



03 CHILDREN
attended College
studying Bio Engineering,
Cookery, Hairdressing



02 CHILDREN
attended University
studying a BA in Film Production
and a BA in Food Technology



07 CHILDREN
received scholarships
from CNCF for their tertiary
education



Currently,
14 GER VILLAGE
CHILDREN
in total attending College or
University

OUR YEAR

Healthcare & Psychosocial Care

Healthcare



753 TURNS OF HEALTH
CHECK-UPS
conducted in the Ger Village infirmary for **55 children**



09 HEALTH SCREENINGS
were conducted for **51 children**

Psychosocial Care



55 CHILDREN
were assessed by the
psychosocial team and received tailored individual
therapy sessions based on their needs



409 PSYCHOLOGICAL
THERAPY SESSIONS
were conducted for **55 children**



12 HEALTHCARE FOCUS
GROUP MEETINGS
were organised



04 HEALTHCARE
TRAINING SESSIONS
were organised



25 HOME VISITS
were conducted for **24 children's families**



46 CHILDREN'S
FAMILY MEMBERS
visited their children at the Ger Village



03 VOLUNTARY
COMMUNITY EVENTS
were facilitated

OUR YEAR

Extracurricular Activities

Arts & Music Programme

 **55** CHILDREN
participated in total

 **27** CHILDREN
attended Art classes

 **17** CHILDREN
attended Traditional
Dance classes

 **44** CHILDREN
attended Art Therapy

 **27** CHILDREN
attended Contemporary
Music classes
(ukulele, guitar, piano)

 **26** CHILDREN
attended Modern
Dance classes

 **23** CHILDREN
attended Traditional
Music classes
(shanz, yatga)

 **17** CHILDREN
attended Craft classes

 **02** MEDALS
were won in 02 arts &
music competitions

Sport Programme


 **47** CHILDREN
participated in total

 **11** CHILDREN
attended Cricket

 **36** CHILDREN
attended Taekwondo

 **23** CHILDREN
attended Basketball

 **08** CHILDREN
attended Kendo

 **08** MEDALS
were won
in 06 sporting competitions

OUR YEAR

Events & Workshops



16

CHILD TRAINING
& WORKSHOPS

were organised

55 children attended



06

STAFF TRAINING
& WORKSHOPS

were organised

34 staff attended



27

CHILDREN

from the Ger Village
are members of the
Noble Club who volunteer
in the community



40

CHILDREN

participated in
the Boys' & Girls' Club



33

EVENTS & EXCURSION

were organised
for all children



03

STAFF MEMBERS

were presented with the
Government award,
'Honorary Workers of
the Social Welfare Sector' for
their 20 years of service



1645.5 KILOGRAMS OF
FRUIT & VEGETABLES

were harvested through Ger Village horticulture



PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The Blue Skies Ger Village was the first programme in Mongolia to be established by CNCF Founder Christina Noble in 1997. The Ger Village sits on 1.23 hectares of land and consists of many traditional Mongolian homes called gers and several purpose built brick structures.

The Blue Skies Ger Village provides abandoned and neglected children with residential care, healthcare, psychological rehabilitation, academic education, vocational training, personal and life skills development, and encourages them to cultivate hobbies and interests through CNCF Arts, Music & Sports Programmes.

The Ger Village serves as both a temporary shelter and a permanent home. When local authorities find a child wandering the streets alone or when a child needs to be removed from an abusive environment, they arrive at the Ger Village for temporary shelter and are provided with food, clothing, healthcare and psychological support while we work to locate their parents/guardians.

If reintegrating the child back into the family is deemed not possible, the child either remains at the Village under its legal guardianship or other appropriate housing is identified depending on the needs of the child.

To this day, the Ger Village remains integral to our mission of serving the unique needs of every child ensuring that all children can thrive in a safe, supportive and caring environment. The holistic support provided enables the children to develop intellectual, social and emotional skills and reach their fullest potential, ultimately lifting themselves out of poverty.

The Ger Village can support up to sixty children at any one time with a maximum of six children residing in each of the ten residential gers. The Village aims to mirror traditional Mongolian family life whenever possible, by having an assigned staff member who is in charge of the upkeep and maintenance of each ger, and supports the children in their daily lives. All of the children take part in maintaining their homes and the Ger Village's communal gers across the four seasons.



REPORT 2020

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Education

Many children that arrive at the Ger Village have never attended schools or have previously been disengaged in education due to their challenging upbringing and disadvantaged backgrounds. To ensure quality education for all children, we provide access to the Blues Skies Kindergarten, local public schools, vocational training centres, colleges and universities. In addition to the academic education, tutoring support is also facilitated by our education officer, primary school teacher, maths teacher, Mongolian language teacher and English teacher. As residential children complete compulsory schooling and seek tertiary education, CNCF supports them with tuition scholarships through the Education Scholarship Programme.

Our teams work with the children individually and in group sessions, providing essential support to those who have academic challenges. The academic and personal development of every child is closely monitored for instant assistance, enabling the improvement of children's school grades, school attendance, learning enthusiasm, self-confidence and self-esteem.



PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

English Language

CNCF recognises the importance of English language in the global employment market. By providing access to language classes, we ensure our children are equipped with essential and professional linguistics skills for employment advantages.

English lessons were provided to **42 residential children** of all ages at the Ger Village. Since October 2019, we have implemented an English curriculum set by Cambridge. English classes are organised with 10 sessions each week while individual lessons on weekends are available for those in need of additional support or children who have shown a keen interest in furthering their English language skills.

Storytelling in English with Atula

Atula is a professional English teacher who started volunteering her services at the Ger Village in 2020. With extensive experience in teaching children English through storytelling, reading and in-depth group discussions, Atula's holistic approach is unique and interesting for children ensuring faster and effective learning. Atula also uses crafts classes to engage the children with various activities to expand their verbal knowledge in English. All of our children really enjoy learning with Atula and these classes have accelerated their knowledge of the English language. **40 children** ageing from 4-18 years old attended her classes in 2020.

Mathematics

Mathematics remains an important subject in a child's education, their daily life and future career. The Ger Village maths classes inspire in the children a greater interest in the subject as well as improving their confidence. **43 children** received extra private maths tutoring twice a week.

Mongolian Language

Mongolian language classes are taught on Sundays. The teacher supported **47 primary school and secondary school children** with spelling and homework. Older children developed their writing style and Mongolian script and prepared for upcoming exams.

General Education

National curriculum-based classes supported **46 children** with their general education and homework. In these classes the teacher is able to monitor students and works closely with any children who are experiencing challenges at school to ensure they are not falling behind with their academics.



PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Extracurricular Activities

Arts

Arts and crafts help children to develop their communication, listening and attention skills, as well as inspire creativity and their imagination. At the Ger Village, children are provided with access to a variety of artistic activities including drawing, painting, sculpture, pottery, crafting and drama.

44 children attended classes.

One 2020 highlight achievement was one of our talented children coming third in the national drawing contest “Australia in my imagination” organised by the Social Consulting Institute of Mongolia.

For full details about this programme, view the Arts & Music Programme Annual Report.

Art Therapy

Healing the emotional trauma that many children at the Blue Skies Ger Village have experienced is crucial to CNCF's work. Through

art therapy our psychotherapist connects with these children and supports them in regaining trust, managing stress, developing self-awareness as well as their wellbeing. The therapeutic techniques include drawing, painting, colouring, sculpting, or collage. By talking to our children about their art and the underlying inspiration, our psychotherapist gains a deeper understanding of our young people and works with them closely to address and resolve any emotional challenges.

All children also participate in group sessions where they are encouraged to share their thoughts and feelings and discuss how to become supportive of themselves, each other and their community. Through the creative process, our children have been able to explore their feelings, resolve emotional conflicts, manage their behaviour, develop social skills, reduce anxiety and foster self-awareness and self-esteem.

Having successfully secured funding from the Mongolian Association of State Alumni, CNCF's project 'Youth Empowerment through Art Therapy' was facilitated for children from the Ger Village, Rehabilitation Centre For Youth Education Programme and Child Sponsorship Programme. In 2020, each child aged between 5 to 18 years old attended 8 art therapy sessions, in total of 52 groups sessions. **44 children** from the Blue Skies Ger Village attended Art Therapy.

For details about this programme, see the Arts & Music Programme Annual Report.



PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Extracurricular Activities

Music

In addition to the developmental benefits, music plays an essential role in ensuring each child's wellbeing and personal growth. Regular weekly music lessons are provided at the Ger Village, supporting the children in learning a wide variety of instruments, choir and traditional and contemporary dance.

In 2020 no music events and performances took place nor were attended due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, 8 of our children who attend dance class participated in the online "Ulaanbaatar Modern Dance Contest" and one of our children made it to the final. **55 children** attended a variety of music lessons.

For details about this programme, see the Arts & Music Programme Annual Report.

Sport

To ensure a creative environment for children to explore their interest while being exposed to various physical, social and educational benefits, we facilitated a range of sports activities including Cricket, Taekwondo, Basketball, Volleyball, Kendo, Swimming and Archery.

In 2020, **44 children** attended classes. Although our normal sports schedule was severely impacted, we still managed to participate in the following when quarantine restrictions were lifted.

Highlights:



An international Taekwondo competition was held online in which **4 of our younger athletes participated**.



The State Taekwondo Championship of Youth was organised for 2 days and **5 of our young athletes** successfully participated. **2 children received 1 Silver and 1 child a Bronze medal**.



4 children from our Taekwondo team participated in a show on Mongolian National Broadcasting TV – 'My Mongolia'. Out of 8 teams our team **came in 2nd place**.



Mongolian National T20 Cricket league 2020. **3 children received a Silver medal, 2 children received Bronze medals**.



1 of our girls participated in the School Basketball Championship and received a medal.



Our talented Basketball player Tengis participated in 3 x 3 Basketball non-professionals' competition and **came in 4th place**.

For full details about this programme, see the Sports Programme Annual Report.



REPORT 2020

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Healthcare

All children have the right to access healthcare services. Almost all of the children who come into our care have grown up in unsanitary and squalid conditions, compounding many other threats to their ongoing health and wellbeing.

At the Blue Skies Ger Village, we provide children with a wide variety of fresh nutrition, supplements, general and annual health checkups and health screenings. Our medical team conducts a full health checkup for every child upon their arrival. Treatments for conditions such as, malnutrition, rickets, physical development challenges, severe dental issues, are provided onsite. Our medical team ensures that the children always feel safe and comfortable whilst checks are being conducted. Referrals to hospitals and pediatric specialists are made where necessary.

With the support of local hospitals, partners and medical volunteer teams, we organise regular specialist screenings and examinations for dermatology, tuberculosis, ringworm, dental and eyes, ears, nose and throat health. We also educate our children about the importance of health and wellbeing through health talks and training on COVID-19 precautions, basic first aid and personal hygiene.

In 2020, **753 appointments** were conducted at the Ger Village Infirmary, **2 hospital admissions** and **9 healthcare screenings** were conducted.

For full details about this programme, see the Healthcare Programme Annual Report.

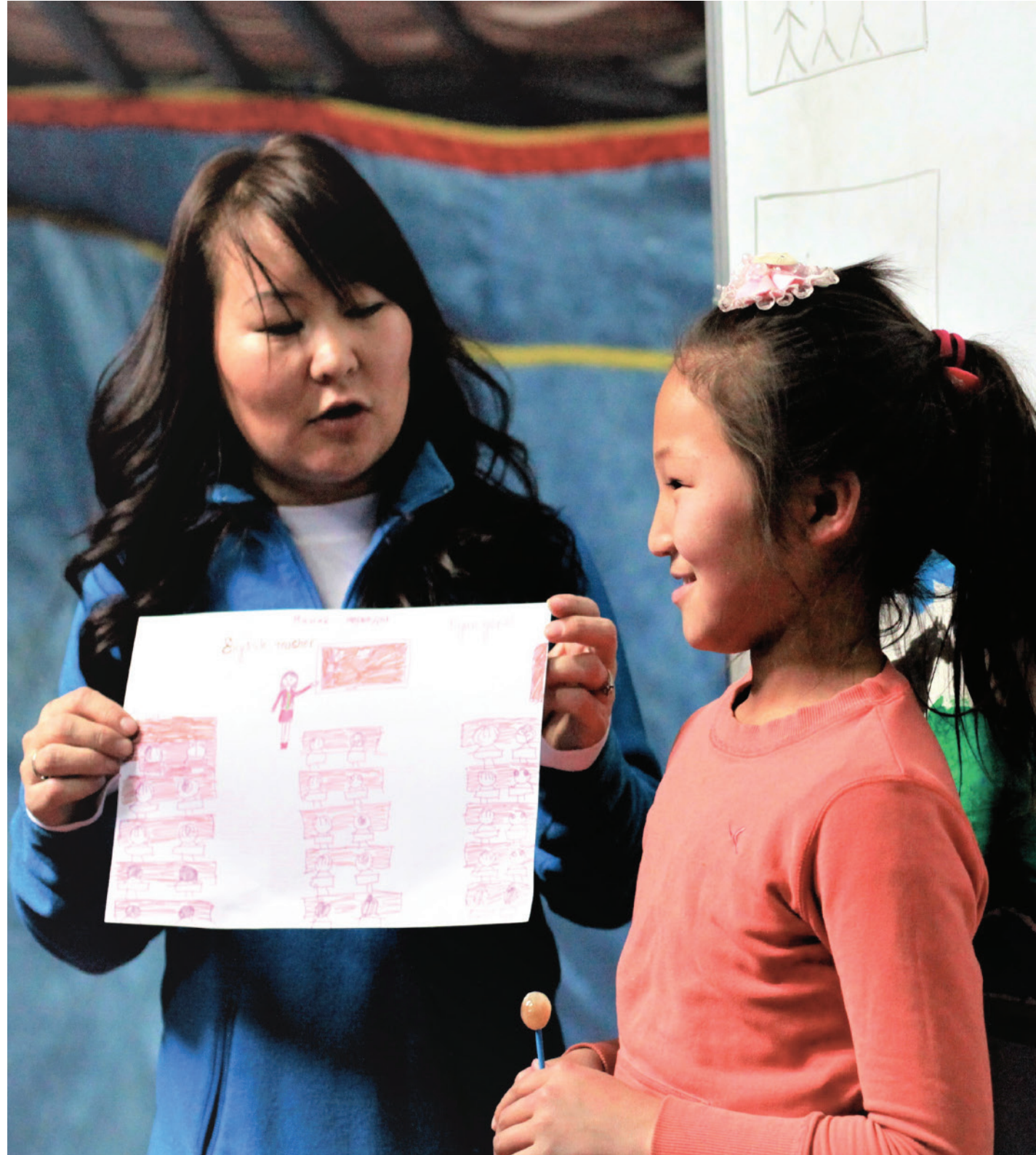
REPORT 2020

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Life Skills Training & Workshops

CNCF works to empower our children to cultivate self-confidence, adaptability, and the necessary interpersonal skills to thrive in various circumstances. Regular life skills training sessions and workshops are facilitated for children of all ages. Topics include emotional intelligence, stress management, personal goal setting, empowerment and self-assessment. These trainings and workshops are conducted by the Ger Village psychologists, professionals offering pro-bono services and the Policy Training and Development Centre.

Our children are also encouraged to host topic talks where they share experiences with other children at the Village. These opportunities not only enable the children to learn more about one another but also inspires each child to build their confidence and self-esteem. In 2020, **55 children** participated in life skills training and workshops.





REPORT 2020

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Horticulture

At the Ger Village, we work to create a healthy and sustainable community where all of our children can develop an understanding and respect for the environment. By growing our own produce, we become more economically self-sufficient while our children are supported to build strong immune systems through an organic nutrient-rich diet. The Village has two outdoor greenhouses and an indoor greenhouse, we also built vegetable plots around the Village to grow potatoes and sea buckthorn trees.

Each year a professional horticulturist is hired to work between March and November and oversee the cultivating, planting, harvesting and pruning activities. Ger Village residents and children from CNCF's Blue Skies Kindergarten are taught about these techniques and take part in daily tasks from weeding to planting and preparing the produce. These experiences not only help them to engage with nature but also enhance their fine motor development.

A special Harvest Day is organised annually at the Ger Village where children are split into groups to collect vegetables and compete in a cooking competition. Our children also pot plants and flowers to distribute to other local children's shelters, developing compassion and a sense of contribution to the community.

REPORT 2020

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Psychological, Social and Emotional Support

Our Psychosocial Team of three professional and dedicated psychologists provides support and enables children who have experienced much adversity in their young lives to heal from trauma. The range of therapeutic techniques used include art therapy, play therapy, cognitive behavioural therapy, gestalt therapy, systematic therapy and drama therapy.

An assessment is conducted by our psychologists when a child first arrives at the Ger Village, followed by an individually tailored psychological support plan. Each child, regardless of how long they have been at the Ger Village, will have periodic therapy sessions and for those children requiring more intensive long-term therapy sessions are held 1-5 times a week depending on the child's psychological and emotional needs. **409 sessions** were conducted in 2020.

Focus group meetings are held regularly where children are encouraged to share their opinions

on a chosen topic, give updates on their lives and discuss how they can be more supportive to one another. Topics include career aspirations, achieving dreams, friendships and overcoming challenges. This technique allows the children to realise that they are not alone and enables them to gain valuable insights from their peers. Through group sessions, our team are able to observe the children's behaviour; body language, emotional expression, attitude and use of language. The children also learn how to conduct and express themselves in a group setting whilst feeling safe which enhances the development of their communication and social skills. Such intervention and psychological support enables the children to understand their emotions and how to manage them.

Psychology Staff Training and Workshops

Our Psychosocial Team delivers training workshops on basic child psychology, communication skills and managing emotions to all staff members of the Ger Village. This is also an opportunity for the staff to learn from each other and share ideas towards the objectives of giving children the highest quality of care and support. Our Psychosocial and Education Management Team attend training sessions to stay up to date with the latest methods and techniques to ensure all of our children receive the highest quality of care.





REPORT 2020

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Additional Psychosocial Support Activities

Boys' and Girls' Club

The Boys' & Girls' Club was established to encourage trust and communication between the children, empowering them to develop essential life skills. The children support the Ger Village staff in their daily work, discuss and share inspirational stories and engage in Arts and Craft projects. Our Psychosocial Team closely monitor every child and identify any challenges which need to be addressed in their individual one-on-one meetings. The children are divided into five groups and sessions are held once a week. **40 children** are currently members of the club.

Noble Community Club

The Noble Club is a community service group made up of young people ages 16 and above who are currently or formerly enrolled in CNCF's programmes. Established in May 2018, the club presently has 271 members with **27 children** from the Blue Skies Ger Village.

The purpose of the club is to give back to the community and contribute to the development of Mongolia. Club members are able to develop essential life skills such as leadership, problem solving, creative thinking, communication and empathy. The Noble club focuses on three areas: personal development, public health and education and organising activities to support CNCF, club members and the wider community.

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Additional Psychosocial Support Activities

Family Members Home Visits

We believe that it is essential to improve the lives of the children's families where in place, for a sustainable and independent future. By doing so, and where possible, we aim to eventually reunite our children and their families, bringing peace of mind to our children and a sense of worthiness to their caregivers. Our team conducted **24 home visits** to 23 families of Ger Village children to assess their living conditions and provide support where necessary. The children's families and relatives are also assisted in applying for ID cards and other documents required for the state healthcare system, official employment and finding accommodation where needed.

Parents and Relatives Days

Twice a year, parents and relatives still in contact with their children are invited to the Ger Village. It is an occasion for the families to connect and get to know the daily life of their children at the village and where they can see how well cared for and loved their children are. Meetings with our staff are also organised to discuss the children's academic and personal achievements as well as daily challenges faced by the family. Such objectives encourage family members to think about their accountability and responsibility to their own children. **46 family members** visited the children at the Ger Village in 2020.



PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Maintenance & Improvements

Our guards and maintenance team play an integral role in the overall function, security and maintenance of the Ger Village. They are in charge of ensuring the safety of our children, the general upkeep of the Village and enabling the heating of our facilities and gers during the different seasons. Our children are encouraged to assist in the processes wherever it is safe and appropriate, developing skills and a sense of responsibility for their home environment. Our children are also able to learn sign language as one of our leading maintenance members, who has been with CNCF for many years, is hearing impaired which cultivates an inclusive, understanding and supportive mindset.

Improvements at the Ger Village in 2020:

- New fences for flowers and vegetables were rebuilt and completed
- All the gers were refurbished twice in the year for summer and winter seasons
- Greenhouses were repaired and provided with new covers
- Community building was refurbished, ventilation was remodelled and back fence was rebuilt
- Ceiling of the kitchen, guard post and carpenter room were refurbished
- Boiler rooms in the clinic, kindergarten and psychology room were repaired and new fire protected roof was installed
- Furnaces in the community building, bathrooms, kindergarten were repaired
- Girls' bathroom and shower block were completely refurbished
- Heating system in the bakery room and arts room was connected with the kindergarten heating system
- Outside sports area was re-surfaced with new rubber flooring
- Electricity in the community centre was rewired
- Locations CCTV cameras were reviewed and new ones installed
- Fire and safety equipment was replaced and upgraded in the Village



PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Events and Excursions

Almost all of our children have been deprived of social interaction and child appropriate activities before their arrival at the Ger Village. It is therefore crucial to nurture our children and introduce them to new and stimulating environments and activities, benefiting their development, psychological wellbeing, self-esteem and general life-satisfaction. Due to COVID-19 restrictions many excursions and external events were suspended in 2020 however we were able to continue with some in the summer months when lockdown restrictions were lifted.

National & International Day Celebrations

We ensure children have access to and participate in varied national celebrations and events such as Tsagaan Sar (Lunar New Year), Children's Day, Women's Day and Naadam Festival. These opportunities promote solidarity between our children as they join

together to prepare traditional meals, activities and performances and which enable them to develop a deeper understanding of Mongolian culture and traditions. Ordinarily on such celebrations outside visitors and disadvantaged children living in state shelters would be invited to join us for such events, this helps the children's social skills and interaction in community settings, however due to COVID-19 restrictions this was not possible in 2020.

Hair Cutting Ceremony

Having the first haircut is immensely important in Mongolian culture. The ceremony represents the transition from baby to childhood and usually takes place when the child is between the ages of 2 and 5. This year, **1 girl** had the traditional Haircut ceremony which was organised by the Ger Village team and always to the delight of the children. Such an experience enables the children to gain more knowledge on cultural traditions and beliefs, ensuring our children are experiencing what they would in a typical Mongolia family home. Our aim is to always raise the children within the context of their culture and ensure traditions are acknowledged, respected and adhered to at all times.



REPORT 2020

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Events and Excursions

Birthday Celebration

Twice a year we organised birthday party celebrations for our children. However, on a child's actual birth day date, every child receives a surprise gift along with presents from other children at the Ger Village. For many of the children, this is a very special and memorable experience as it is their first time celebrating a birthday.

Graduation Celebration

Graduation celebrations are organised for our children who successfully graduated from Kindergarten, Primary School, Middle School, Secondary School and College. This year:

04 CHILDREN
graduated from CNCF's
Blue Skies Kindergarten

03 CHILDREN
graduated from
Secondary School

04 CHILDREN
graduated from
Primary School

02 CHILDREN
graduated from
College



PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Events and Excursions

Community Work

As part of an initiative to help cultivate our children's sense of responsibility, empathy and compassion towards others, our team organised a variety of community work activities throughout the year. In 2020 our initiatives were restricted due to lockdown restrictions; however, the following went ahead:

- Visiting residential care homes for the elderly to spend the day engaging with the local community by helping them with their daily tasks and performing traditional dancing, singing and poetry. It brings much joy and happiness and to the elderly community to see our children and their performances, likewise it is an opportunity for our children to spend time with our older and wise members of the community.

- During the winter months, we were able to organise 3 community out-reach initiatives providing hot drinks to people who were working outside in temperatures of minus 25-30 degrees.

- Cleaning and picking up trash in community areas.

Farewell Celebration

When a child leaves the Ger Village, a farewell ceremony is held as we wish our children the very best as they embark on a new chapter of their lives. CNCF continues to support all the children through their life stages, ensuring they have a safe and secure home to live in when they leave us. In 2020, **5 children** graduated from the Ger Village.





REPORT 2020

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Events and Excursions

Monitoring and Assessments after Ger Village Graduation

In accordance with our Child Protection and Reintegration Policy, 10 of our former Ger Village children are currently living in CNCF's transition homes, which are for those who have no family or we have not been able to reintegrate them back with their family, or those who cannot live independently for other reasons after graduating from the Ger Village.

CNCF continues to monitor and assess these children on a daily basis and in accordance to its young peoples' safeguarding policy and procedures. Where CNCF has been able to successfully reintegrate a child back into the family unit, CNCF remains in contact with the child and family members until the reintegration process is closed as a successful case.

A minimum two-year procedure is applied upon the child graduating from the Ger Village. For the first three months, our social workers conduct regular visits to the family home to assess the reintegration process and make an assessment by interviewing the child and family members separately to identify the circumstances. Once the first three months' initial assessment is concluded, social workers arrange further home visits once every three months for the first year and unscheduled home visits continue until the end of the second year.

If all deemed a successful reintegration the family's case file is then transferred over to the responsibility of CNCF's Child Sponsorship Programme team. Should the reintegration not be successful the child is re-homed back to the Ger Village. A CNCF assigned case Social Worker, CNCF Child Sponsorship Team and a government Social Worker of the local district assigned to the family are responsible for visiting the child/children at home to make a variety of assessments until the child/children reaches 18 years old, or after if the young adult is still deemed as a dependent.

REPORT 2020

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Events and Excursions

Visitors and Volunteers

2020 was a unique year in that we did not receive our regular amount of local and overseas visitors and volunteers due to COVID-19 restrictions, with the exception of two groups of visitors in the summer months when lockdown was lifted, a group from the Inner Mongolia Club and a group from the Teachers Hobby School both who spent the day engaging with the children in making arts and crafts and play based activities.

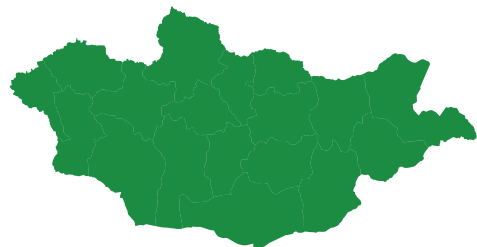
We received three volunteers from the community, two provided English lessons to the children and one who assisted with photography and communications, and which we remain deeply grateful to all for their efforts on behalf of the children. All COVID-19 health and safety procedures were strictly adhered to.



MONGOLIA STATISTICS

For those already living in abject poverty, the impacts of lockdown and restrictions continue to remain as threats to their livelihoods and health. A range of social and environmental factors including social change, migration and unemployment have been recognised as additional current key drivers of mental ill-health and psychosocial distress amongst communities. COVID-19 has exacerbated most of these problems. With little or no access to adequate support services due to a lack of funding, CNCF's services are crucial, now more than ever, in providing professionals in this area and critically needed support to many of the most marginalised and distressed communities on our planet.

The comprehensive assistance provided at the Blue Skies Ger Village ensures our children who come from extremely poverty-stricken backgrounds, are enabled to develop academically and socially, in a caring and supportive environment. When children are educated and able to reach their potential, they flourish into confident individuals and independent members of their society.



- **28.4%** of the total population live under the 2018 official poverty line. ^[1]
- **21.3%** of the population whose food consumption is insufficient to provide the daily dietary energy levels required. ^[2]
- During the restrictions period in Mongolia, **39.9%** surveyed families indicated they did not have enough food for their children at home. ^[3]
- **42.2%** of children with chronic medical conditions who have health problems have not been able to receive their regular medical checkups. ^[4]

[1] UNICEF 2015

[2] FAO Statistics

[3] & [4] "SICA" LLC, commissioned UNICEF Mongolia, covered 1,000 households with children aged 2-18 in Ulaanbaatar, Arkhangai, and Umnugovi provinces





REPORT 2020

OUR STORIES

Childhoods Transformed Through Psychosocial Care

Tamir and Togos* came to live at the Blue Skies Ger Village when they were 2 years and 3 years old, respectively. The siblings had lived in abject poverty and experienced a severe lack of care and attention from their parents who were chronic alcoholics. One evening, whilst their parents were intoxicated again, their dilapidated ger burnt to the ground leaving the family homeless. The parents then abandoned the children with a stranger who contacted the authorities and brought them to the Ger Village.

Upon the children's arrival, they were examined by our doctors and were diagnosed with acute malnutrition, abdominal distension, and acute developmental delays. Suffering from severe early childhood trauma and struggling to trust anyone, Tamir and Togos distanced themselves from everyone around them. With time, intensive care and the love and patience of our medical and psychological team, the children eventually recovered both physically and emotionally. They eventually learnt how to socialise with their peers and have formed real friendships, something that seemed foreign and impossible to them when they first arrived with CNCF. Children like Tamir and Togos are one of many examples of why CNCF's work remains critical and why we are inspired and driven to keep undertaking the foundation's life-transforming work.

*Names and identities changed to protect privacy

OUR STORIES

A Life of Blue Skies

"Having only been living at the Ger Village since March of 2019, I notice how my once tangled life has completely changed in such a short time. My mother ran away from home when I was 3 years old because of my father who is an extremely abusive man. My early childhood memories are of the violence my brother and I had to endure and those days of domestic animal herding for survival. We had no chance to attend school. When we couldn't stand the abuse and violence anymore, I made a decision to flee from my father. It was a difficult time for my brother and I to live on the street before we were discovered by the police and sent to the CNCF's Blue Skies Ger Village. It was the beginning of an extreme change in my life.

I have been able to attend informal school in order to catch up with my studies and attend other additional classes like Music, Arts, Sports and for the first time I felt what it was like to have a normal childhood. The Ger Village is the most wonderful place I have known in my whole life because it is filled with children's laughter, fun activities and beautiful music melodies. I became a 6th grader this year and it is a huge success for me to achieve. Thank you very much for making this very possible to me. My life is now full of blue skies."

- A Blue Skies Ger Village Child -

*Identity changed to protect privacy





REPORT 2020

OUR STORIES

Helping A Family

"My name is Tsolmon* and I'm 41 years old. My life has been full of pain and trauma since childhood that I just simply don't think that I'm a lucky person but, I am blessed with wonderful children. As a child, I had to serve other families and never had a chance to attend school. I recently left my husband because he was an alcoholic with substance dependence who would often abuse me and my children. Diagnosed with tuberculosis 4 years ago, I struggle to work and put food on the table every day. We were living a very difficult life that I had no choice but to put my children into the care of others if they were to stand any chance of a life out of poverty.

My daughters came to live at the Ger Village in September of 2017. Since then, they have really flourished into healthy and happy children. Zoloos* is not only good at school but is also very talented at crafts. She often gives me presents and souvenirs which she makes herself in the classes at the village. Zolboo* is talented at music and arts. They both study hard and make good grades. I'm really proud of them. Unlike me, they can now dream of a future with a good career. My daughters are very lucky to be in the care of CNCF, and I am very lucky to have your support. Thank you very much CNCF for providing everything for my daughters and loving them no less than I do."

- Parent of a Ger Village Child -

*Names and identities changed to protect privacy

REPORT 2020

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The total cost of running the Blue Skies Ger Village in 2020 was:

USD \$220,929

Heartfelt thanks to our kind donors who enable CNCF to keep this project operating and also to those who generously support with gift and time in-kind which enables us to keep our costs down.

Audit in progress at time of reporting.
Our audits can be found at:
www.cncf.org/finance-policies/



BLUE SKIES GER VILLAGE EXPENDITURES IN 2020

Expenditure	Amount
Firewood & Coal	2,798
Electricity	3,003
Telecommunications	1,731
Office Stationery & Supplies	700
Equipment & Items	1,609
Cleaning Materials	2,405
Food for children	21,200
Math Tutor	1,936
Psychological Development	878
Festive / Birthday Parties	2,118
Clothing / Uniform / Shoes	3,410
Education Supplies	413

Expenditure**Amount**

Children's Hygiene Supplies

954

Bus Fares & Pocket Money

960

Maintenance & Improvements

8,358

Transportation

2,514

Vehicle Maintenance

2,893

Horticulture

1,057

Ger Village Staff x 46 Salaries/Social Insurance

121,097

Staff Training

290

Public & Staff Relations

1,194

Sewage Removal

1,893

Miscellaneous/ Others

542

20% Management Operating Cost

36,974

TOTAL**220,929**

REPORT 2020

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Your donations and support to the Blue Skies Ger Village enable us to continue providing a safe haven for children and young adults at high risk of exploitation, abuse and neglect, who are orphaned, living on the streets or come from poverty-stricken families. When children are protected, cared for and are equipped with the knowledge and skills to thrive, they can look to a brighter future, free from poverty. We would like to send a heartfelt thank you to our primary donors **Nelumbo Stiftung** (CH) and **USA Foundation** (US) for funding this project and providing a safe and supportive environment, laying a strong foundation of childhood for our children.

Thank you to the many kind individuals and organisations not mentioned for their additional support in ensuring our children receive the caring and supportive childhood that they so deserve and thus remaining true to our Founder's philosophy.





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